Dear Clay, 1/10/99

Please excuse this delay in answering your letter of the first and with acknowledging the large package which came the next day. In part it is from our present situation, which does anything but forecast that other ten years we would like to have with you. Lil grows weaker daily, as I also do, and some of my old problems are also growing. I never talked about them but they are many and increasingly lately my good eye is not as good. The other eye is next to useless from the cataract it was decided not to remove unless something happens to the other eye.

I hope that this coming Wednesday can mark the beginning of a change with Lil. I've been trying for a long time to get her to consult with a psychiatrist but she has steadfastly refused. This past week a nurse from the county seems to have made a difference when she proposed this and gave Lil reasons for it. Lil finally agreed. Going through what she went through is enough to assure depression but I fear there is more than that.

While a nurse or nurse's aide comes most days to wash Lil and help her in other small ways, that will soon run out and we'll have to get someone to do that. A physical therapist comes and Lil just does not do what she is supposed to do in p.t. when the therapist is not here. So, particularly after more than two months of inactivity, she grows daily weaker.

I am afraid to leave her alone and it oppresses me that the indications are what I cannot avoid is near. Aside from indications that the prostate operation needs redoing (I'm in my fourteenth year on the TURP when doctors say you are lucky to get ten years) and I fear that dialysis is close. I've had the access surgery done and I see the local nephrologist this coming Tuesday. When it comes that will take three days each week the rest of my life. Or, it will not be safe to leave Lil alone those days and I fear that means returning her to the storage bin for humans the nursing homes are. Here, anyway.

I hope there will be more that I can do in the coming period, of course, and if it turns out that I can, I hope you will listen to the reality from me and not your hopes I would like to have a basis for sharing. I illustrate why it is im - portant to retype what I am writing first with all the incredible amount of much appreciated retyping you have done.

For at leazt the last month before Lil was home I had nothing to work on. I did not start anything new because, as I've indicated, I want to clean up all I can when and while I can. Instead of doing either of the two manuscripts you then had you retyped what I had written of Honorable men. Which would have meant as much to Jerry a month or two later but it meant I was not able to work on what you had not returned. And that when I did not have all the Lil worries I now

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have to say nothing about my problems and deteriorations. More, except for the time I visited her, I could work and had nothing in which to work. I just have not felt up to starting it when it did get here several days ago.

I have gotten so weak I was fortunate the delivery woman brought that box in for me. She left it on a chair in the kitchen and I opened it and took what was in it into my office. As it happens, I came into possession of a small bookshelf that fits behind the door of my office. I placed each of the things you had wrapped separarely in a box and where you identified the contents, labelled that box that way. Some is not identified but I'm sure is identifiable and some is not complete and may be completed elsewhere. Which means I've many pages to turn to learn. It also seems that some of the rough drafts were not returned. While I have a copy of each, all are in the basement, to which I can't go, and my copies do not have your notations and corrections. I think it is the Twyman/Fetzer manuscript with the returned rough draft that I'll start with and hopefully will work my way to and through the rest.

My present situation is difficult, most of all with Lil's suffering and other problems on which I've not been able to help her. She is also a pretty determined woman. That was a fine asset in the past but it is not now when she is determined not to do her physical therapy and get to be as self-~~reliatxx~~ reliant as possible. A week ago she fell down again and although she has trouble getting out of a chair (as I also do) she did not call for help when she knew she could not get up without help. Which, when I discovered what had happened, I did get. Fortunately, she did not hurt herself again! But that this did and can again happen worries the life out of me.

At this point Jerry Ray phoned, then I went to help Lil with her delayed getting dressed, the Dave called before she was finished, then I made lunch, and now the fine woman who helps me, particularly in applying medication on my back where I cannot reach it, is overdue. She was to have come from church but something has delayed her. I hope not the omnipresent ice.

You sent me two copies of the Whoring manuscript and did not say if you had sent one to Brown. Perhaps that you did not is just as good. I saw his TV show and with it a black copy of the Koch show the probability is that if it reached the staff they discared it as not for that show. Which it isn't. I'll try to get his Memphis address and send one to him if I do not hear from him.

Like me and the rest of us, Jerry forgets. He was copying from that file drawer of Commission records two decades ago. I did not label them because all in that cabinet are commission as the top drawer says or used to day. His interests changed.

Years ago I had a photographic memory but no longer. That is why I hope when people like you send me anything it will be fully identified. I am not being critical of Jerry. It happens to us all. He has been taking and copying files for some time now, as I want, and if he has not run out of space he soon will. Carefully and slowly as he writes he'll have enough for a busy retirement. Without having to go to Wood for access. Meanwhile, he is started on two books I'd started and had to lay aside, not having access to the necessary records. You know of Honorable Men. There is also ExSess, on the exectuive sessions. Wish it had been possible for me to continue with them. And there are probably a couple of more manuscripts I could not get to the necessary records for. I remember one on Oswald as a spook (which at least officially he was not.) Fact is that I'd also forgotten that what you retyped for Jerry and I presume for yourself had been retyped some yers ago. One of Jerry's former students was here and she heard Jerry say how much of what you's retyped of Honorable Men he liked and she said that she had retyped what I'd written years ago. But I have no idea where it is. It exists but without a search it would not surface.

~~Forgot. I've a sense you are right in saying that what I wrote to be added to Inside as my~~

Forgot. In a sense you are right in saying that what I wrote to be added to Inside is like my saying goodbye. That I was saying foodbye in it was not in my mind but explaining was. After I sent it to you or before I did, abed one night some necessary additions came to mind but were no longer there when I woke.

The actuality is that for some time I've been searching for a place where, when the time comes, I'd have room to continue working, when I can no longer stay here alone or with Lil, who is close to that point now. No success yet. They are all cubbyholes other than what we cannot afford, a special apartment where help is provided. If she snaps out of her depresssion that will help in many ways. If she can get to understand that her reaction is normal and a lack of reaction would be abnormal that might help. But that situation bears heavily on me.

You may remember that not much more than a month ago, when I went to Hopkins for the access surgery on the dialysis, I took work with me. Did the same thing two years + ago when I had the second congestive heart failure. Right now I do not feel that drive. Hope it comes back!

Best
Harold